

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 99

Condemning the Government of the Republic of the Sudan for its participation and complicity in the attacks against innocent civilians in the impoverished Darfur region of western Sudan.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 8, 2004

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself and Mr. FEINGOLD) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Condemning the Government of the Republic of the Sudan for its participation and complicity in the attacks against innocent civilians in the impoverished Darfur region of western Sudan.

Whereas, since early 2003, a conflict between forces of the Government of the Republic of the Sudan, including militia forces backed by the Government, and rebel forces in the impoverished Darfur region of western Sudan has resulted in attacks by ground and air forces of the Government of Sudan against innocent civilians and undefended villages in the region;

Whereas the militia forces backed by the Government of Sudan have also engaged in the use of rape as a weapon of war, the abduction of children, the destruction of food

and water sources, and the deliberate and systematic manipulation and denial of humanitarian assistance for the people of the Darfur region;

Whereas United Nations officials and nongovernmental organizations have indicated that the humanitarian situation in the Darfur region is extremely urgent, particularly in light of restrictions by the Government of Sudan on the delivery of humanitarian assistance for the people of the region;

Whereas, on December 18, 2003, United Nations Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Egeland declared that the Darfur region was probably “the world’s worst humanitarian catastrophe”;

Whereas, on February 17, 2004, Amnesty International reported that it “continues to receive details of horrifying attacks against civilians in villages by government warplanes, soldiers, and pro-government militia”;

Whereas, on February 18, 2004, United Nations Special Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs in Sudan Tom Eric Vraalsen declared, following a trip to the Darfur region, that “aid workers are unable to reach the vast majority [of the displaced]”;

Whereas Doctors Without Borders, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning medical humanitarian relief organization and one of the few aid groups on the ground in the Darfur region, reported that the region is the scene of “catastrophic mortality rates”; and

Whereas nearly 3,000,000 people affected by the conflict in the Darfur region have remained beyond the reach of aid agencies trying to provide essential humanitarian assistance, and United Nations aid agencies estimate that they

have been able to reach only 15 percent of people in need and that more than 700,000 people have been displaced within Sudan in the past year: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) strongly condemns the Government of the
4 Republic of the Sudan for its attacks against inno-
5 cent civilians in the impoverished Darfur region of
6 western Sudan and for its failure to take effective
7 actions to stop militia attacks on civilians in the re-
8 gion, and demands that the Government of Sudan
9 immediately take actions to cease these attacks;

10 (2) calls on the international community to
11 strongly condemn the Government of Sudan for its
12 participation and complicity in these attacks and de-
13 mand that such attacks cease;

14 (3) urges the Government of Sudan to allow the
15 delivery of humanitarian assistance to people in the
16 Darfur region; and

17 (4) urges the President to direct the United
18 States Representative to the United Nations to seek
19 an official investigation by the United Nations to de-
20 termine if crimes against humanity have been com-
21 mitted by the Government of Sudan in the Darfur
22 region.

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